

Hatcher Pass East Management Area & Summit Lake SRS

Winter Recreation Conditions Report

January 8, 2015

****See detailed report below****

AREA	SNOWMOBILE STATUS	NEW SNOW	AVG. SNOW DEPTH	COMMENTS
Goldmint Lot	CLOSED	0"	18"	Goldmint Valley is closed to snowmachines, vegetation still prevalent, depositional area
Goldmint Trail	<i>Non-Motorized</i>	0"	18"	Please remove waste created by dogs
Archangel Trailhead	<i>Non-Motorized</i>	0"	18"	CLOSED TO SNOWMACHINES Groomed for skiing Depositional area
Archangel Valley / Reed Lakes	CLOSED	0"	24"	Groomed to Archangel Creek
Fishhook Lot	CLOSED	0"	20"	Wind Blown, vegetation showing, closed to snowmachines
Independence Mine	<i>Non-Motorized</i>	0"	22"	Ski trails groomed on the road and around mine buildings
Summit Lake SRS	CLOSED	0"	0-24"	Wind blown, bare ground Avalanche danger
Mile 16/Paradise Runs	<i>Non-Motorized</i>	0"	18" upper 14" lower	Parking at Mile 16 lot only – NO TURNAROUNDS ON ROAD due to Avalanche danger Depositional area
<i>Average snow depth is recorded uncompressed.</i>				
<i>Snowmobile openings are based on many variables including packed snow base and vegetation coverage</i>				

** There has been no new snow fall or precipitation in Hatcher Pass as of 3:00 p.m. Jan. 8. Over the past 36 hours the temperatures have climbed and remain above freezing with peak temperatures near 40 degrees. The snow pack is still extremely variable with consistent low density facets, but it is slowly changing. The wind that occurred last week moved some of the snow from higher elevations and deposited in lower elevations, gullies, and other depositional areas. This has created a resemblance to an “upside down” snow pack with lower elevation areas having more depth than higher elevations. The contract groomer has made it up as of Jan. 7 and he has struggled with the lack and quality of snow. There is not enough snow to fill in the low spots and create the snow bridges necessary for the groomer to access certain areas. Reminder that all of East side of Hatcher Pass and the Summit Lake area are closed to snow machines until adequate snow to protect vegetation.

The Department of Natural Resources has created a web-based report for recreational user conflicts in the East Hatcher Pass Management Area. To access the report go to: http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/planning/mgtplans/hatcher/incident_rpt/
Collected information may be used to assist DNR in identifying recreational conflict types and areas of conflict. These reports will not necessarily result in active enforcement or investigation. Additional information can also be provided to the area rangers by contacting the Mat-Su Area Headquarters at 907-745-8950.

Additional snow and weather information can be found at the Independence Mine Snow-tel website at: <http://ambcs.org/SiteViewer.shtml> or Marmot Mountain weather station website at: http://www.cnjaic.org/wx/wx_marmot.php
Please note: A \$5 day-use parking fee or 2014 annual parking pass is required at most trailheads throughout the Hatcher Pass Area. 2014 passes are now available and can be purchased online at <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/passes.cfm> or purchased from park offices, park staff, REI, and AMH.

ATTENTION BACKCOUNTRY USERS: The Hatcher Pass Area is an **AVAILANCE HAZARD AREA**. Be sure and take your beacons, shovels and probes with you and be knowledgeable of their use. **BE PREPARED** Safe traveling can prevent backcountry emergencies and costly search and rescues. Always let someone know where you’re going. Know the hazards of the country you’re traveling. Travel with a pack containing safety gear and emergency provisions.

For avalanche information: <http://hatcherpassavalanchecenter.org/>

